Oregon

and its

Swedish Population

-- by --

ERNST SKARSTEDT

Excerpt from the book
Oregon och dess Svenska Befolkning
originally published in Swedish in Seattle, 1911.

Oregon

and its

Swedish Population

(1911)

-- by --

ERNST SKARSTEDT

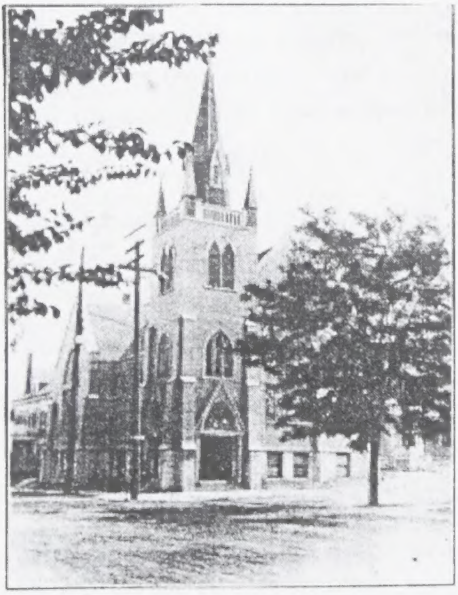
Translated by Lars Nordstöm, Ph. D.

Published by Swedish Roots
Portland, Oregon

Swedish Churches and Congregations in Oregon

A) The History of the Lutheran Congregations

The pioneer of Lutheran activities in Oregon was Pastor P. Carlson. In 1879 he was chosen to work among his countrymen on the West Coast by the board of missionary activities for the Augustana Synod. His first letter from Portland, in which he reported his impressions, was dated September 15, 1879: "There are supposed to be about 500 Scandinavians here. Of all the congregations, one belongs to the Norwegian Synod, and some Swedes belong to it. Pastor Christensen has been in charge of it, but he has now moved to Idaho. The Norwegian minister Fredriksen is here; he has a church and a rectory in East Portland, but the church is said to stand empty. He rents a 'hall' in the city, and he kindly allowed me to make use of it last evening. There are also Methodists, Baptists, and Missionary Friends, but they are not numerous. Last evening I spoke to a fair number of them." In Astoria Pastor Carlson found about 100 Swedes and many Finns, and in the Dalles, which he visited in May 1880, about 30 Swedes.



The Swedish Lutheran Church in Portland

After having held worship service in Portland several times, he founded the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Immanuel Congregation on December 28, 1879, with 20 Swedish and three Norwegian members. Its first board of directors consisted of J. A. Allmen, secretary; C. L. Rosander, M. Larson, and Sven Anderson, lay workers; M. Lundberg, C. P. Nilson, and Oscar Peterson, trustees. Rosander was the first treasurer of the congregation. In 1881 a church lot was

purchased on B Street, between 9th & 10th Streets, for $1,500. The size of the lot was 50 by 96 ft., and in 1882 a church building was erected measuring 50 by 36 ft. with an interior height of 18½ ft. The cost of the building was $2,000. The church was consecrated on April 8 by Pastor Carlson, assisted by Pastor J. Telleen. The first altarpiece was painted by C. F. Pearson. It was later replaced by a similar piece painted by the Norwegian painter J. Hansen. In July 1880, following Pastor Carlson's return to the East, the missionary work was carried on out here by Pastor Jonas Vender, who served the congregation in Portland three Sundays each month. In November 1891 he was forced to leave his position due to illness. There was no pastor for the congregation until August 26, 1893, when Pastor J. W. Skans gave his inaugural sermon. During the following years a great many improvements on the church were carried out, until it received its current look with a steeple and a basement with a rectory in 1888. In 1890 the church lot was estimated to be worth $8,000, and the church, including all the improvements, had cost the congregation approximately $3,500. At that time the congregation had 150 members, was free of debt, and could manage without help from the missionary board. Pastor Skans died in 1904 and was succeeded by Pastor C. J. Renhard. The old church and the lot was sold; a new lot was purchased at the corner of Irving and 19th Street. In 1905 a large, beautiful church was built there. A rectory was built right next to it. The congregation now consists of 500 members, of which 275 are communicants. The property, including the church and the rectory, has an estimated value of $35,000. In the summer of 1910 Pastor Renhard resigned his position to devote his time instead to fundraising for the construction of a hospital, Immanuel Hospital, for which lots have been purchased in Albina, east of the Willamette River.

The second oldest congregation in Oregon is the First Evangelical Lutheran Congregation in Astoria. It was founded by Pastor P. Carlson on March 23, 1880, and had one Danish, three Norwegian, and eleven Swedish members. The same year a church was built, 42 ft. long, 24 ft. wide, and 14 ft. high at a total cost of $700. The lot on which it was built, measures 37½ by 60 ft. The church was consecrated on April 1, 1883 by Pastors P. Carlson and J. Telleen. In August 1883 the Finnish-Swedish Pastor J. J. Hoikka took over the parish and founded, parallel to the Swedish congregation, a Finnish one with over 100 members. He stayed until October 1885 and was succeeded by Pastor Jackson from West Union, Minnesota, who, however, left the area by the spring of 1887. For many years afterwards, the congregation was served on and

off by Pastor Skans from Portland and Pastor Lindh from Clark County, Washington. Pastor R. Wallquist is now in charge of a congregation of more than 300 members, of which 200 are communicants. The church and rectory have an estimated value of about $8,000.

The Coos Bay Congregation in Marshfield was founded on September 8, 1884 by Pastor P. Carlson, and it had 55 members, of which 46 were Finns, six Swedes, and three Norwegians. On November 1, 1885, the congregation had its steepled church built and decorated, 34 ft. wide, 50 ft. long, 19 ft. high. 442 free workdays were donated during its construction, and of those one man contributed more than 50. The congregation Sewing Bee contributed to its interior decoration with items valued at $150. The lot, 50 by 100 ft., worth $175, was donated by a sawmill company. The church was built by V. Lakström. Jonas Granholm and Carl Selander collected subscriptions. On October 12, 1885, Pastor C. M. Ryden took charge of the congregation, and on November 22 the church was consecrated by Dr. E. Norelius from Vasa, Minnesota, assisted by Pastors Carlson and Ryden. One of the congregation's lay workers was the Norwegian Myren, who for a period of three years had worked for Norwegian missionaries in Madagascar. Pastor Ryden stayed for a little over a year, following which the congregation was leaderless until August 1, 1887, when Pastor A. A. Swärd, the famous poet, took charge of the parish. In a letter to "Augustana" and "Missionären" Swärd wrote: "I would like to mention to all those Swedes who are ashamed of their native language and, because of this, do not want to send their children to a Swedish school, that here I have several American children who come to school to learn Swedish. This ought to make all such un-Swedish Swedes ashamed. I am, however, willing to teach the entire Marshfield population Swedish, if that is what they want and if I have the time for it." For a long time Swärd taught school each Sunday[1]. In the spring of 1890 he moved to Templeton, California, where he passed away in July 1891. During the seven years between 1894 - 1900, the congregation in Coos Bay[2] was led by Dr. C. M. Esbjörn. He was succeeded in 1901 by Pastor B. F. Bengtson, who was in charge of the parish until September 1909, when he was succeeded by Pastor Richard Olson. The congregation is approximately as large as the congregation in Astoria, and its assets are valued at about $10,000.

---

[1]The Swedish text says "sökendag," apparently a misprint for "söndag".

[2]The Swedish text says "Templeton," but the author must mean Coos Bay

The Church of the Valby Congregation

The Church of the Bethania Congregation

The Church of the Saron Congregation

The Church in North Bend

On April 18, 1886, Dr. E. Norelius founded the Valby Congregation in Morrow County with 17 communicant members. The membership is now almost 70, of which about 50 are confirmed. J. E. Peterson in Ione has been the congregation secretary for 24 years. Pastor B. S. Nyström writes: "This congregation is unusual in many respects. It has several different post offices: Gooseberry, Eight Mile, Ione, Morgan, and Ella. It is about 40 miles long. Some families must travel 25 miles to get to church. They own large land parcels, a few more than 1,000 acres. During the harvest, a kitchen with a female cook travels with the work crew from field to field for sometimes as long as three months. Here you may see a man plow with eight horses, harrow with seven, haul wheat with six or eight, and cut and thresh the grain at the same time with 36 horses. No region in the West can so completely confuse people from the East, who do not understand the conditions out here. The soil consists of clay and ash of volcanic origin, and is the most powerful soil on earth, but it looks like desert soil and frightens all those away who do not, through experience, know its nature."

On October 17, 1886, Pastors P. Carlson and J. W. Skans founded the Bethlehem Congregation in Mist and Fishhawk in the Nehalem Valley, Columbia County. The nearest town is Clatskanie on the Columbia River,[3] 64 miles west of Portland. The membership is 40, of which 36 are communicants. The church property is valued at approximately $800.

The Saron Congregation next to Gresham in Powell Valley, Multnomah County, 15 miles east of Portland, was founded in 1898 by Pastor J. A. Levin with 15 communicant members, a number which

[3]Clatskanie is actually not on the Columbia River, but on a tributary to the Columbia called the Clatskanie River.

has quadrupled since then. A church was built in 1900, and was added on to in 1908. The congregation, whose property is valued at $1,000, is led by Pastor J. E. Nordling, who preaches in the church every other Sunday.

The Augustana Congregation in East Portland was founded in 1906 by Pastor C. J. Renhard and has 15 communicants. A church was built in 1907 on Stanton and Rodney Streets. The property is valued at $8,000. Pastor C. A. Tolén was the congregation's first teacher. He was succeeded by the present teacher, Pastor H. E. Sandstedt.

The Carlsborg Congregation in Clackamas County (mailing address Colton) was founded in 1907 by Pastor C. J. Renhard, and it built a large, beautiful church in 1908. The church is adorned with an altarpiece painted by Miss Anna Salander. The church property has an estimated value of $2,000. Pastor J. E. Nordling serves the congregation, of which approximately 60 are communicants.

The same year (1907) Pastor C. A. Tolén founded the Bethania Congregation in Warren, Columbia County, and it built a church in 1908. It was designed by K. V. Berglund in Portland, and G. H. Ekström, the congregation secretary, was in charge of the work. The congregation has around 80 members, of which 50 are communicants. The church property is valued at $3,500. C. J. Larson has donated one acre of land to the church and has made space for a cemetery available.

In 1908 Pastor B. F. Bengtson founded a congregation in North Bend, between Marshfield and the coast. The congregation owns a valuable piece of property and counts about 50 members who are communicants. Pastor R. Olson serves the congregation.

In December 1908 Pastor B. S. Nyström founded the Tabor Congregation in southeast Portland with 14 communicants: B. S. Nyström and C. O. Carlson with their families, Mr. and Mrs. F. Lundell, Oscar Anderson, and Albert Biberg. The membership is now at 20. The congregation has a church on Woodbine & Firland Streets and is served by Pastor Nyström and others.

On November 14, 1909, Pastor B. S. Nyström founded the Eden Congregation in Melrose, Douglas County, 200 miles south of Portland.

On January 18, 1910, the Columbia Congregation was founded in Mayger, Oregon, and Stella, Washington, by the same pastor. The congregation includes 25 communicants, and has for the time being rented a building for worship near Mayger. Members live partly in

Oregon, partly in Washington, on both sides of the Columbia River, as well as on islands in the river or in boat houses along it. Most of them are fishermen; others have farms along the river.

B) The History of the Baptist Congregations

The Baptist movement in Oregon traces its history back to 1882, when Pastor O. Okeson, employed by the American Baptist Association, commenced his activity out here. While he later lived back East in order to collect funds for missionary activities, the first Baptist congregation in Portland was founded by Pastor Gustaf Liljerot on January 1, 1884, with 16 members, among which were Mr. and Mrs. John Palmblad, P. A. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Rose, Miss Lina Johnson (later Mrs. Dennison), Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Stone, Mrs. Elisabeth Peterson (later Mrs. Holst), P. M. Holst, and Andrew Olson. Pastor Liljerot became the congregation's first director. On October 3, 1885, he was succeeded by Pastor N. Hayland, who served until March 25, 1889, when he was succeeded by Pastor U. L. Brauer. The congregation had a lot and a church by 12th Street, near F. Later the property was sold, and another was bought on 15th & Hoyt Streets, where a church with seating capacity of 450 persons was built in 1905. The congregation now has a membership of 275. The property is valued at over $35,000. Pastor Eric Scherstrom is in charge of the congregation.

There are also Swedish Baptist congregations in Warren, Columbia County; in Powell Valley, organized in the fall of 1909; in Deep Creek; in Fishhawk, Columbia County, and in Tillamook. The congregation in Fishhawk has a nice church of their own, fully paid for. Besides these congregations there are several places where Baptist families have settled, and where Baptist congregations probably will be organized in the future, as in Reedville, Washington County, and Colton, Clackamas County.

C) The History of the Missionary Congregations

The oldest Missionary Congregation is the one founded in Portland in November 1887 by the missionary A. Lydell, who was its leader for seven months and who was succeeded by J. Almer, a man of the old school, sincere, but also noticeably simple-minded. It was he who, when the author asked him for information on the history of the congregation, retorted by asking me whether I was a faithful Christian, adding that he could not understand how information about a Christian congregation could be of any use to anyone who was not himself "of the faith." In the summer of 1890 Pastor J. Hagström was in charge of the congregation. On September 1, 1890, he was succeeded by Pastor C. A. Nilson. The first members of the congregation were A. Lydell, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Nilson, Mr. and Mrs. O. Andrews, J. Johnson, E. Söderlund, and L. Olson. In 1891 a church seating 400 people was built on a lot on 17th and G Streets. In 1909 the so called Elim's Chapel, with a seating capacity of 250 people, was built on Skidmore Street. The congregation has 170 members and operates Sunday schools on six different locations: in the church; in the chapel; in Brooklyn; in South Portland; in St. Johns; in the Vernon district; in addition to which some members of the congregation teach Sunday school in a chapel called the Betania Chapel by Anabel station. This chapel was built by a member of the congregation in 1908, and it is also used for services. Pastor B. J. Thoren is in charge of the Missionary Congregation.

The Swedish Missionary Congregation in Powell Valley was founded in 1890 by Pastor J. Almer and now has about 40 members. Their church seats 150 people. The congregation was established by Pastor J. A. Ström.

In 1908 the Swedish Missionary Congregation in Marshfield was founded by J. Sjögren, Otto Nelson, and others. This congregation primarily focuses on Sunday school activities.

Even though no other congregations have been founded, meetings are held in several places where a substantial number of Missionary Friends have settled, such as in Astoria, Clatskanie, Warren, Oregon City, and so on.

D) The First Swedish Methodist Congregation in Portland

The congregation was organized on November 19, 1890, by Pastor O. E. Olander. The following pastors have served the congregation: E. A. Davidson, John A. Anderson, C. A. Anderson, C. O. Freeman, N. G. Barton, K. O. Berglund, S. Moody, Ossian Johnson, and the current pastor, John Ovall, who in November 1907 was appointed by Bishop David Moore to this post. The congregation owns a large, beautiful church and rectory. The church was built while Pastor Barton served the congregation, and the rectory when Pastor Berglund took over.

Swedish Newspapers in Oregon

The first newspaper printed in the Swedish language in the state of Oregon was undoubtedly a Democrat campaign paper called *"Demokraten"* (The Democrat), published by the author of this book in Portland in May, 1890 during an unusually lively election campaign. Only two issues were published. The paper consisted of four pages with four columns per page. Its purpose was, according to the introductory announcement, to "help those readers who had not had the time or opportunity to become fully acquainted with the political circumstances out here, and who wished to make up their own minds independently." The first issue was published on May 22, and the second on the 28th. The paper, which was paid for by the Democrat campaign fund, was distributed for free.

In June, 1892 three issues of a weekly paper called *"Folkets Röst"* (The Voice of the People) were published.

In 1894 another weekly called *"Portlands Veckoblad"* (The Portland Weekly) was published. It was started in April or May and continued until some time in December. J. L. Wallin and Edward Boyse collaborated as publishers and editors. Boyse wrote a light-hearted column in each issue under the pseudonym Anderson. This weekly had four pages with six columns per page.

In October, 1906 the first issue of an illustrated monthly called *"Nordvestern"* (The Northwest) was published. It was founded by J. L. Wallin with assistance from C. A. Appelgren and Ingemar Weström.

The content mainly consisted of stories, and the illustrations primarily depicted landscapes from Oregon. Editorial essays were also published, occasionally written in rather strange Swedish. This publication folded in April, 1907.

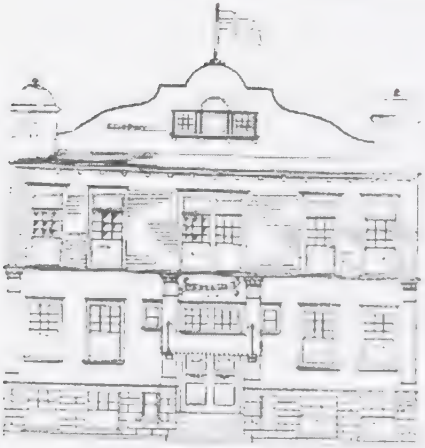
In January, 1907 Pastor J. Ovall began publishing a "nonsectarian, religious newspaper" called *"Haroldeп"* (The Herald). During most of its existence it was normally published monthly and consisted of four pages with four columns per page. During the last two months it was published weekly and had changed its format to eight pages. It ceased publication in December, 1908.

During March and April, 1908 the typographer Oscar Hyllengren from Seattle published six issues of a six-page (initially four-page, but later eight-page) weekly called *"Svenska Oregon-Posten"* (The Swedish Oregon Post), which gained a fairly wide circulation, but which, however, was unable to stay afloat as long as the previously mentioned publications with the exception of *"Demokraten"* and *"Folkets Röst."*

None of these papers met with a success that even came close to that of *"Oregon-Posten"* (The Oregon Post). The history of this paper is remarkable enough to deserve a more detailed description. On October 3, 1908, the newspaper man F. W. Lonegren traveled from Seattle, Washington to Portland with the purpose of starting a Swedish newspaper enterprise. Since all the Swedish newspapers published in Portland up to that point had, in terms of duration if not in other respects, disappointed the expectations of their readers, the skepticism toward Swedish papers was quite large. In spite of this, during a two week period, Mr. Lonegren successfully managed to convince about 20 Portland Swedes to sign up as share holders in the new newspaper company, and on November 9—to quote Mr. Lonegren—"the subscription for shares had proceeded so well that a decision was made to form a newspaper company called The Swedish Publ. and & Printing Co. and to incorporate it. The following were appointed incorporators: F. W. Lonegren, editor; W. Lidell, vice consul; C. J. Renhard, pastor; V. Brandt, hotel owner; Eric Helmer, merchant; and C. M. Anderson, restaurant owner. The first board of directors consisted of Samuel Holm, president; W. Sunden, vice president; E. Helmer, treasurer; F. W. Lonegren, secretary and manager; as well as Pastor C. J. Renhard; W. Lidell; and Alfred Anderson." The number of shareholders was 30 at that time, but was later increased to almost 40. The paper was called *"Oregon-Posten"* and its first issue was published on December 2,

1908, with six columns and eight pages. The format was later increased to seven columns. F. W. Lonegren was appointed both editor and manager. From the start the paper gained a wide circulation, the equivalent of which has rarely been seen, at least on the West Coast. When the paper celebrated its first birthday, it surprised its shareholders by granting them a 10% discount on the price of a share. In June, 1910 the second large surprise came when the paper published a special edition totaling 32 pages with detailed descriptions of Oregon's resources and geography; the history of the Swedish congregations, organizations and pioneer settlements, as well as the history of the entire state; stories; editorials; news; letters to the editor; and, last but not least, more than 200 portraits and other illustrations. *"Oregon-Posten"* is a political newspaper with strong leanings in the direction of the church and temperance movement. Its current board of directors consists of J. A. Backstrand, president; Pastor C. J. Renhard, vice-president; E. Helmer, treasurer; F. W. Lonegren, secretary and manager; as well as Alfred Anderson, C. J. Seaquest, and E. C. Johnson. The paper has correspondents in the Swedish communities in Oregon and receives weekly letters of events in Sweden from the editor's sister Evelina Lonegren in Jönköping. The editor's wife helps her husband in the editorial office; Andrew Johnson serves as the travel agent, and C. M. Newman is in charge of the printing office.

Swedish Organizations in Oregon



The Linnea Building, Drawing by E.J. Grahs

The Swedish Linnea Society of Oregon. (By E. J. Grahs.)

This organization traces its origin to the benevolent society known as the Swedish Brotherhood, founded in 1888, and to describe Linnea without mentioning its predecessors would be most inappropriate, because it was precisely through this brotherhood that solid ground was gained for a great and

beneficial social life in Portland. The Swedish Brotherhood was founded on a stormy October evening in 1888 by a committee that had volunteered itself for this purpose, and who had publicized a mass meeting of Swedes to discuss this undertaking. The driving force behind gathering these few people was Philip W. Liljeson, who passed away a few years ago in Seattle. He was in many respects a talented, experienced, and enterprising countryman who at that time had a rather prestigious post office position in Portland, and who had, together with the author of this chronology, for a long time discussed the issue. Already the year before he had attempted to organize a Swedish society, but it was an attempt which inevitably foundered due to the small community of countrymen, widely divergent interests, contrary opinions in religious and political questions, and so on. Determined not to give up, our enthusiastic countryman worked assiduously to make his friends and acquaintances receptive to his favorite subject: a Swedish society in Portland. After a great deal of work he finally managed to get things arranged so that a mass meeting was called on October 29, 1888, at the old gathering place on Morrison Street, where the large Corbett building now stands, but where in those days there was a badly damaged one-story building where O. T. Soderback had his well-known tobacco shop. To this meeting the following people came: Philip W. Liljeson, C. L. Bergstrand, Chas. Frost, C. W. Helmer, N. G. Wingren, Carl Magnuson, C. F. Pearson, E. J. Grahs, O. T. Soderback, C. W. Swenson, Oskar Olson, A. E. Schwartz, and Lars Wallin. At the following meeting, on November 30, 1888, several new members were signed up and an election for board members was held. Those elected were C. F. Pearson, Chairman; L. A. Bergstrand, vice-chairman; Philip Liljeson, meeting secretary; O. T. Soderback, treasury secretary; Chas. Frost, doorkeeper; N. M. Bern, treasurer; E. J. Grahs, librarian.

The Swedish Brotherhood's first year was not the best, even though one or two new members were signed up, funds grew, and things were shaping up pretty well. At the board elections in December, 1890, it was pointed out that it was rather useless to keep a librarian when the society did not possess a single book. The question was raised whether the position should be terminated, at least for the time being, but rather than taking a step backwards everyone was encouraged to obtain at least one book for the library. Donations were slow in coming, not so much due to stinginess but to the lack of appropriate books, since very few people had an abundance of Swedish books, and none could be purchased any closer than Chicago. Eventually a few books appeared: a copy of *Ahnfelts sånger* (The Songs of Ahnfelt), a volume of Swedish

history, a Bible, an entire set of Congressional Records, an old trunk, and an accordion. *Ahnfelts sånger* was renamed *"Ahnfelts postilla"* (Ahnfelts collection of sermons) by the members, and it was a name the poor book got to keep ever after. It was donated by a member who has since passed away, old man Johnson, and it appears to have followed him to the grave, because it is nowhere to be found now. However, all these treasures were always displayed with great pride. They were received warmly and duly acknowledged, reverently piled up before each meeting, and as reverently stashed away into the trunk after each meeting. Never was this treasure house opened, and never was it closed, without the parable of the mustard seed appearing like a mirage in my youthful imagination—and now, when I occasionally peek into Linnea's spacious and, in terms of reading material, rather prodigious library, I always think of the old trunk and "Ahnfelts collection of sermons."

The size of the society fluctuated constantly. A couple of times it had almost 150 members, but since the membership consisted mostly of bachelors who were completely dependent on the availability of jobs, the size of the society fluctuated according to politics and the job market—if times were good in the city membership grew, and if times were bad and not much work was to be had, our Swedish day laborers were pushed out into the countryside or to other cities to make a better living, and the society's numerical strength dwindled. After a precarious existence of four years everyone finally realized the untenable trend of the society, and eventually, after a great deal of palavering, everyone agreed to change name and direction. This occurred at the meeting on November 30, 1892. Unanimously it was decided to grant equal rights and responsibilities to both sexes, and to adopt the name The Swedish Linnea Society. It is under this beautiful name that the work and activities of the society in Portland has developed in the best possible way, and today it demonstrates—better than ever—the old adage that "it is not good for a man to be alone!" Of the founders of the Swedish Brotherhood mentioned above, only three still remain in the society, namely: C. F. Pearson, C. A. Anderson, and E. J. Grahs. All three are from the province of Skåne. The others have "fallen along the road," moved away from the area or been removed by death. The society's first female member was Carrie E. Henning—an enterprising and highly popular lady who, as a very young person, went to America, but in spite of that was still interested in all things Swedish. She served as vice chairman of the society, served on several committees and was always very generous in her financial support. She died very suddenly in Portland on June 3, 1893.

The society has advanced steadily and now numbers around 300 members, more or less equally divided between men and women. It has a rather substantial cash fund, a well-stocked library and a nicely situated building lot on Irving Street where a three-story club house is currently being built at a cost of $15,000, partly for its own use and partly for renting out to other organizations. The society has had to change its meeting place quite often. Linnea regularly met on Friday evenings, and never was a meeting canceled due to a holiday, death, or other reason. At the meeting February 2, 1910, it was decided to change the meetings to Wednesdays, a step which appears to have had good results in that larger attendance seems to have followed. One chairman, John Pearson, has been snatched away by death during his tenure; he died on November 22, 1909.

The Linnea Society Building, built by E.J. Grahs. Inaugurated Nov. 30, 1910. Photo by E. Skarstedt

During its 22 years of existence, the society has paid out no less than $15,000 in member benefits and funeral assistance to its members; it has liberally assisted countrymen in need with advice and information; it has made cash donations to people in distress both here and in Sweden, and its activities have been both useful and dutiful in general. Every year the society puts on a great Christmas party to which the public always is welcome. A social is held once a month, and at these gatherings refreshments are served after a short literary program. A river trip is arranged every year around Midsummer Day and a large party each New Year's Eve.

The society's library includes the best pieces by our most prominent authors in history, romance, and fiction. Currently the following individuals serve the society: C. F. Ek, chairman; Emma Nilsson, vice-chairman; Sam. Rosenberg, meeting secretary; C. J. Foleen, treasury secretary; Erik Helmer; treasurer; Ernst Hakanson, master of ceremonies; Ernst Björklund, librarian; Hilma Magnuson, vice-librarian; August Bohne, doorkeeper. C. F. Pearson, C. A.

Appelgren, and Carrie Frost serve as representatives. The membership fee is only $3 and monthly dues are 50¢. In truth, it is rather remarkable that an organization is able to exist and move forward when the cost to the individual members is so low and insignificant compared to the advantages, and when the monetary demands placed on the society in the form of rent for the premises, member benefits, funeral costs, etc., are so high. As a matter of fact, the society pays any injured or sick member $7 per week for at least ten consecutive weeks during each calendar year. Following a death, $50 are paid to the survivors of the deceased, or the society covers the cost of the funeral. Linnea has always been punctual in paying member benefits to its members and very generous in its dealings with the Swedish population in general.

To this history of the Swedish Brotherhood and Linnea, written by E. J. Grahs, I would like to add a few lines about the society's new building mentioned above. The plans to this building have been drawn by E. J. Grahs, and the building has been constructed by him. On the lower floor is a banquet hall as well as spaces for a caretaker, furnace, etc. A meeting hall and reception rooms are located on the second floor, and the actual club rooms are all located on the third floor. The corner stone to this building was put in place on September 5, 1910, in the presence of a great number of Scandinavians. The chairman of the society, C. F. Ek, was in charge of the program, and speeches were given by Mr. Lidell, the consul, Mr. O. F. Isakson, and the attorney Wald. Seton. In an article in *"Oregon Posten"* it was said that "Mr. Lidell especially stressed four of the goals of this Swedish organization, namely helping and supporting the weak and stumbling, cultivating our intellectual and moral tendencies, stimulating our national affections, and caring for and preserving our magnificent Swedish language. Mr. Isakson emphasized the great responsibility of the society in helping to elevate the moral tendencies among the young, and urged unity and solidarity by working for things that are aimed at elevating Swedishness in this country. Mr. Seton described in an excellent manner the financial side of the matter. The song group Columbia had volunteered its services and sang 'Hör oss Svea' (Svea, hear us), 'Stridsbön' (Battle prayer), as well as the American national anthem. As usual, it was a splendid performance. The neat corner stone had been made by one of Linnea's charter members, L. A. Bergstrand, and was donated to the society. Inside the corner stone some Swedish and American coins were placed, the constitution of the Swedish

Brotherhood, Linnea's constitution, membership rolls and a list of the board of directors of the building committee, the society's emblem and program, a copy of *The Oregonian, The Journal*, a special edition of Oregon Posten, and ten "beech nuts"[4] from the home of the builder, E. J Grahs. The placement of the corner stone was executed by Mr. Bergstrand."

Court Scandia No. 7, Foresters of America. (By C. P. Olson).

This organization was founded in Portland February 1, 1892, as a local branch of the Order of Foresters. It was organized by the current chief ranger of the lodge, C. W. Helmer, who at the time was a member of Court Mount Hood. Charter members were: G. F. Hedwall, past chief ranger; P. O. Nelson, chief ranger; Chas. G. Sakrison, sub-chief ranger; Oskar Pira, treasury secretary; O. T. Soderback, treasurer; E. O. Swenson; Elof Johnson; Gustave Warlin; Peter Benson; Lewis Swanson; Olle Engberg; Emil Swanson; John Hokanson; Oskar Hellgren; and Chas. Niblin. Of these, John Hokanson, Chas. G. Sakrison, O. T. Soderback, and C. W. Helmer are still members. The first meetings were held in St. Mary's Hall, at that time located on 3rd and Oak Streets. The lodge has since then held its meetings in the Danish Aid Society Hall, Columbia Hall, G. A. R. Hall, all on 1st Street, then in Foresters' Hall on 2nd and Yamhill Streets, and finally the lodge moved to its present space, the East Hall in the Selling-Hirsch Building on Washington Street. During its 18 years of existence, the Chief Ranger position has been held by the following persons: P. A. Nelson, Chas. Anderson, G. A. Hedwall, C. W. Helmer, C. G. Sakrison, E. H. Ahlgren, A. P. Nelson, A. E. Schwartz, C. F. Munson, A. Lundquist, Gustave F. Olson, Arvid Nelson, John Ecklund, August Carlson, G. E. Gustafson, Werner Petterson, Olof Nelson, Harold Haroldson, Oscar Olson, L. W. Lofstedt, G. R. Walgren, E. P. Hedberg, Claus Anderson, Reinold Anderson, N. P. Folen, and G. S. Nelson. Several people have held this position more than once. O. T. Soderback, Andrew Swanson, and F. Anderson have, due to long and commendable service, been honored by the title Past Chief Ranger. Current officers are: C. W. Helmer, chief

[4]The word "boknotter" translates into either "beech nuts" or "book nuts" (whatever that might be) since the word "bok" may mean either "beech" or "book." Here the author may refer to the seed of the beech, even though they are normally called "bokollon." Exactly what they are we may not know until this time capsule is opened.

ranger; Roy Anderson, sub-chief; Claus Anderson, correspondence[5] secretary; E. A. Sandström, treasury secretary; Frank Anderson, treasurer; Claus Carlson, senior woodward[6]; H. Erickson, junior woodward; H. Hanson, senior beadle; Axel Bergstrom, junior beadle; H. Haroldson, lecturer; O. Monson, Sam Folen, and P. Johnson, trustees. When it was founded, the Scandia Lodge had 15 members; now it has 269. More than $1,600 a year has been paid out in member benefits and for other charitable purposes, but the lodge nevertheless maintains a nice surplus in its account. Membership dues are $1 per month, and in case of illness or injury $7 per week is paid out, in addition to which doctor assistance and medicine is free to the sick person. When a member dies, the estate is paid a sum of $100. When the wife of a member dies, the husband receives $50. There is also a social fund that is used to arrange dances and social gatherings during the year. During the summer several picnics and outings are organized, and in these the members participate with their wives and families. The social fund mentioned above is also used for charitable purposes in situations where the rules do not grant assistance to a member. The lodge business is carried out in Swedish, and the minutes are written in Swedish. About twelve years ago Dr. A. Ausplund donated $50 to help create a Swedish library. Little by little Swedish books have been purchased, and the lodge now owns a considerable and well-cared-for collection of books, from which the members may borrow books. The lodge is nicely decorated with beautiful Swedish and American flags, and its membership is continually growing. One of the members, John Ecklund, is now the main treasurer of the American Order of Foresters for the State of Oregon.

The Swedish Benevolence and Funeral Assistance Society was organized in Portland on January 23, 1893, and the following board of directors was elected: Pastor C. J. Beckman, chairman; J. Signell, vice-chairman; John Stilqvist, meeting secretary; Alf. Lindhe, treasurer; Alf. Larson and J. Ingman, treasury secretaries (the former covering the East side, and the latter the West side); A. Nordström, J. Carlson, and Pastor Skans, trustees. On June 12, 1902, the society's current constitution was adopted. Member benefits are paid at a rate of $1 per

[5]The original text uses the abbreviation, "korr," which normally means "korrektur," meaning proofs, but here it may stand for "korrespondens."

[6]The Swedish text uses mostly American terms here, "senior woodward" etc.

day for a total of 80 days per calendar year. In case of death, $50 is paid in funeral assistance. The membership fee is $2 or more, depending on the member's age. Monthly dues are 40¢. The society holds its meetings in one of the Swedish churches, and arranges festivities twice a year to reinforce their funds; their finances are solid. In 1910 the officers were: Theo. Young, chairman; N. Peterson, vice-chairman, Sophia Olson, meeting secretary; John Chalström, treasury secretary; Ernest Nelson, assistant treasury and meeting secretary; Ed. Halseth, treasurer, Swan Petterson, Wald. Lidell, Gust. Olson, Ernest Nelson, J. Ingman, and J. W. Hawkins, directors. The society now numbers a couple of hundred members.

On June 8, 1905, a Swedish Good Templar Lodge called Svithjod was founded in Portland. It had 15 founding members. The first officers of the lodge were: Andrew Johnson, deputy; Anshelm Nelson, templar; Bertha Printz, vice-templar; Bertha Olson, int. templar;[7] Frank Swanson, secretary; Frank A. Swanson, assistant secretary; Arthur Norrman, fee[8] collector; Seth Lind, fee master; Emma Kristianson, former templar; Hulda Lindholm, assistant vicar; Gust. Swanson, steward; Anna Halfvarson, assistant steward; Gust. Carlson and Hilding Olson, sentinels for the inside and outside. The lodge holds its meetings on Thursdays and has approximately 80 members. In 1910 the lodge had the following officers: Alfred Nelson, deputy; Gust. Malmquist, templar; Edla Peterson, vice-templar; Martha Anderson, int. templar; Alf. Malmquist, secretary; Sallie Ekström, assistant secretary; John Person, fee collector; Josephine M. Johnson, treasurer; Oskar Johnson, former templar; Katrina Shedvin, assistant vicar; Emil Nelson, steward; Tekla Anderson, assistant steward; Celie Dehnström and Andrew Johnson, sentinels for the inside and outside; Ellen Johnson, organ player; Klara Malmquist, registrar.

The Swedish National Society was organized in Portland in June 1907, and its first officers were: J. W. Hawkins, president; John Anderson, vice-president; C. M. Anderson, treasurer; E. J. Grahs, meeting secretary; O. F. Isakson, treasury secretary; J. Peterson, C. M. Anderson, and A. E. Trogen, representatives. The society was

---

[7]It is not clear what the abbreviation "int" stands for, maybe "interim"?

[8]The literal translation of this position is "tax collector," just as the following position is referred to as "tax master," but to avoid its modern association I have chosen the word "fee" instead.

re-organized in November 1909 with the following officers: Chas. E. Johnson, president; C. M. Lundberg, vice-president, M. Frick, secretary; A. W. Hawkinson, treasury secretary; S. J. Lindquist, treasurer; J. F. Johnson, Emil Linde, and O. F. Isakson, representatives. The society has 60 members in good standing.

United Swedish American Brotherhood is the name of a Swedish benevolence society founded in Astoria in 1907 with John Lundquist as grand master; K. A. Johnson, master of record; T. Nordström, master of finance; and John Svenson, master of funds. The state of affairs of the organization is good, and the membership is steadily growing. The members must be born in Sweden, or by Swedish parents in the United States. The board of directors is now comprised of the following individuals: Axel Backlund, grand master; G. A. Hemple, past grand; Robert Svenson, vice grand master; and K. A. Johnson, master of records.

When it comes to organizing choral groups, the Swedes in Oregon have been much slower than their countrymen in the neighboring states of California and Washington. There was an excellent male choir in Portland as early as 1889, called "Luren" (The Horn), but of its ten members only two—C. B. Borquist and Andrew Holmquist—were Swedes. All the others were Norwegians. "Luren" was dissolved on October 8, 1889. The first exclusively Swedish male choir in Portland was Columbia, which traces its history back to July 13, 1903. Columbia's first officers were: C. E. Holt, chairman; C. F. Munson, secretary; K. V. Berglund, finance secretary and treasurer. The group's name became "Svenska Sångklubben Columbia" (The Swedish Song Club Columbia). C. E. Holt was its first leader and he led the group until January 1908, when he was succeeded by C. B. Borquist. He remained in charge of Columbia until July 1910, when C. E. Holt returned as leader of the group. Columbia has performed in public many times. This choral group has received much praise for its excellent harmonies, strong vocal resources, and artistic modulation at the singing competitions during the expositions in Portland, July 29, 1905, in San Francisco 1907, and in Seattle July 31, 1909. In 1910, Columbia's officers were: C. A. Appelgren, chairman; F. W. Linde, vice-chairman; Ivar Åkerström, secretary; A. Broddie, treasurer. Honorary members are Wm. Sunden, Chas. Holmes, Wald. Seton, Edw. Boyse, Ludvig Wallin and Wald. Lidell.

In Astoria, in the fall of 1908, The Swedish Men's Choir Manhem

was founded with H. L. Nantrup as its leader; Emil Peterson, president; and John Svenson, secretary and treasurer. John Svenson writes: "O. Anderson, G. A. Hemple, and Gustaf Kohlander took an active part in founding the choir. Since then it has seen both sunny and cloudy days. Most of the members took part in the singing competition at the Seattle Exposition in 1909. The choir is now doing well and has 18 members. L. A. Larson is the leader; Axel Backlund, president; O. Anderson, secretary, and J. Svenson, treasurer. Meetings are held each Friday in Manhem's singing hall."

SWEDISH ROOTS IN OREGON
An Immigration Research Project

Swedish Roots in Oregon is a non-profit organization which was formed in 1999 to conduct research on Swedish emigrants who settled in Oregon. The main goal is to answer the following questions:

* WHO were they?
* WHERE did they come from?
* WHY did they leave Sweden?
* WHAT brought them here?
* HOW did their lives turn out?

The results of this research is currently being compiled in a computer data base, and the aim of Swedish Roots is to make this information readily available to any interested genealogist, historian, or individual. Swedish Roots also actively supports the translation and/or publication of books, articles, and other historical material describing the lives, events, and achievements of the Swedes in Oregon.

For more information, please contact:

Swedish Roots in Oregon
32461 SW Lake Drive
Wilsonville, Oregon 97070

Or visit our website at: www.sundvall.nu

The publication of this offprint was made possible by a generous donation by the Swedish Council of America.

$2.00